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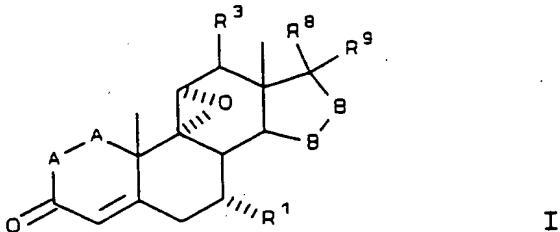
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PROCESSES FOR PREPARATION OF 9,11-EPOXY
STEROIDS AND INTERMEDIATES USEFUL THEREINAbstract of the Disclosure

Multiple novel reaction schemes, novel process steps and novel intermediates are provided for the synthesis of epoxymexrenone and other compounds of Formula I



wherein:

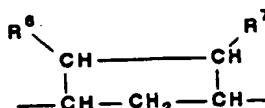
-A-A- represents the group -CHR⁴-CHR⁵- or -

CR⁴=CR⁵-

R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, cyano, aryloxy,

R¹ represents an alpha-oriented lower alkoxy carbonyl or hydroxyalkyl radical,

-B-B- represents the group -CHR⁶-CHR⁷- or an alpha- or beta-oriented group:



where R⁶ and R⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano, aryloxy, and

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R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, lower alkoxy, acyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, acyloxyalkyl, cyano, aryloxy, or R^8 and R^9 together comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure, or R^8 or R^9 together with R^6 or R^7 comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring structure fused to the pentacyclic D ring.